

## CHAPTER 32

### SIGN CODE

**32-1-1**      **PURPOSE.** The following regulations and restrictions apply to all signs that are located in view of the general public from any street or highway right-of-way. Further, it is the intent of this Code to regulate the size, number, height and location of signs according to their location within the Village.

**32-1-2**      **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(A)            No sign shall be erected or maintained where, by reason of its position, wording, illumination, size, shape or color, it may obstruct the view of oncoming vehicles or impair, obscure, interfere with the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic control sign, signal or device.

(B)            Awning or canopy signs shall be no less than **eight (8) feet** above the ground when erected over pedestrian walkways and **seventeen (17) feet** above areas of vehicle service access at the lowest extremity of the sign. Such sign shall be otherwise regulated as provided for wall signs.

(C)            For the purposes of these regulations, window displays of goods available on a site are exempt from these sign regulations.

(D)            Wall signs shall be securely fastened to the building surface. These signs may project from the building a maximum of **eighteen (18) inches** from the building surface. Wall mounted signs shall not exceed in height the height of the parapet line, the cornice line or the line under the eaves of the wall upon which the sign is located. Roof signs are not permitted.

(E)            No lighted signs shall be constructed or maintained within **one hundred (100) feet** of any single-family dwelling unless the illumination of the sign is so designed that it does not shine directly onto such property or onto any street.

(F)            Unless otherwise provided by the terms of this Chapter, prior to the placement, erection, or construction of any sign within the corporate limits of the Village, a building permit must be obtained from the Village.

(G)            All signs for which a building permit is required shall be constructed and maintained in conformance with county building and electrical codes.

(1)            Plans for all freestanding signs shall be certified as to conformance with all structural and wind-load resistive standards of the Building Code by a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois, or be prepared using standard drawings prepared by a structural engineer or other qualified professional meeting or exceeding all requirements of the Building Code.

(2)            All signs involving internal lights or other electrical devices or circuits shall display a label certifying it as meeting standards of the Underwriter's Laboratories.

(H) All signs, together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in good repair and, unless constructed of galvanized or noncorroding metal, shall be given a protective coating as necessary to maintain a clean appearance and safe condition.

(I) Any sign which refers to a business, industry or other use which is no longer in operation on the property which the sign is located shall be removed. Any sign that refers to a product or service, which is no longer offered on the property that the sign is located, shall be removed. Removal of the sign shall include the removal of the signboard and above ground supporting structure and apparatus except for concrete foundations, anchor bolts, stubbed electrical service and similar items. The owner of the property on which a sign under this Section is located is responsible for the removal of said sign.

(J) No part of any sign on private property shall be located in or within **five (5) feet** of a public right-of-way.

(K) If a nonconforming sign must be removed due to a county or state road improvement project, the Village may authorize the relocation of said sign even though the new location may not meet the setbacks, siting and/or spacing or other provisions of this Section.

(L) No sign shall be allowed within the Village, except as provided herein.

(M) Except where specifically excluded by other provisions of this Section, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to post, display, substantially change, alter or erect a sign in the Village without first having obtained a permit from the Village.

(N) **Computation of Sign Area.** In order to determine compliance with the maximum allowable sign areas permitted under this Section, the area of a sign shall be considered the area of the sign structure unless otherwise stated. The area of a sign structure and a sign face shall be computed as follows:

- (1) The area of a sign face shall be computed as the area within the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle or combination or portions thereof enclosing the limits of a sign face, or the combination of the areas of all such geometric figures delimiting each sign face module, together with any frame or material, texture or color forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed.
- (2) The computation of the area of a sign face shall not include the structure, supports or uprights on which the sign face is placed or any portions of a sign structure that are not intended to contain any advertising message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature, other than those portions contained within a geometric figure that delimits the sign face or a sign face module.
- (3) For any sign on which the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements routinely change or are intended to be changed from time to time, the sign face area shall include the entire area within which any words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements

may be placed, together with any frame or material, texture or color forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed.

- (4) The area of a sign structure shall be computed as the area within the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle or combination or portions thereof enclosing the limits of the surface of a sign whereon the sign face or sign face modules may be placed, including all portions of a sign structure that provide a background for the sign face but are not intended to contain any advertising message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature.
- (5) Any open space contained within the limits of the geometric figure delimiting the sign face, sign face module, or sign structure shall be included in the computation of the area of such sign face, sign face module, or sign structure.

For multi-faced signs, when the sign face surfaces are parallel (back-to-back), or where the interior angle formed by the faces is **forty-five (45) degrees** or less, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area on the largest side. For all other multi-faced signs, the area of the sign shall be the total area on all sides that can be viewed at one time from any angle.

No sign face shall exceed **two hundred fifty (250) square feet** in size. The maximum height for any sign including the structure, supports or uprights on which the sign face is placed or any portions of a sign structure that are not intended to contain any advertising message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature shall be **twenty-five (25) feet**.

**32-1-3**      **TEMPORARY SIGNS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS.** Any person, firm or corporation is allowed temporary signs for special events as follows:

(A)            Prior to the erection and placement of a temporary sign, an application for a permit to place and maintain such temporary sign shall be filed with the Village on a form provided by the Village.

(B)            The temporary sign must be placed on the site in such a manner as to be at least **five (5) feet** from the right-of-way and to not be an obstruction for traffic.

(C)            Temporary signs shall be used for a specific special event only, such as but not limited to grand openings, seasonal sales, liquidations, going-out-of-business sales, fire sales, and give away of free promotional items.

(D)            Temporary signs shall be authorized for a period not to exceed **thirty (30) days** per event. Temporary signs may be permitted no more often than twice each calendar year for the same occupant on the same property.

(E)            Temporary signs shall be limited to **one (1) sign** per lot frontage per occurrence, not to exceed **thirty-two (32) square feet** in area.

**32-1-4**      **PROHIBITED SIGNS.** The following signs are prohibited in the Village:

- (A)            Animated signs.
- (B)            Off premises signs other than those allowed by this Chapter.
- (C)            Signs which emit or utilize in any manner any sound capable of being detected on any traveled road or highways by a person with normal hearing.
- (D)            Signs which emit smoke, vapor, particles or odors.
- (E)            Signs that have been abandoned, including signs that advertise an activity, business, product or service no longer conducted on the premises on which the sign is located.
- (F)            Signs that are dilapidated or in such condition as to create a hazard, nuisance or to be unsafe or fail to comply with any provision of the Revised Code of the Village.
- (G)            Signs or sign structures of any kind that extend into or above, or are anchored or placed in any portion of a public right-of-way, other than official governmental signs.
- (H)            Signs or lights that contain or are an imitation of an official traffic control sign, signal or emergency vehicle device.
- (I)            Signs affixed to utility poles, street markers and fence posts.
- (J)            Signs that advertise or promote illegal activities or signs which contain indecent, scandalous, obscene or immoral matters as part of the sign or the activity the sign intends to promote.
- (K)            Signs that are erected, located or maintained in such a manner as to interfere with safe and free ingress and egress of any door, emergency exit, driveway, street or roadway.
- (L)            Inflatable signs.

**32-1-5**      **EXEMPT SIGNS.** No sign permit shall be required for any of the following signs to be displayed in the Village; provided, however, that the signs comply with the requirements set out for each such type of sign; that all other regulations in this Section shall apply to such signs, including but not limited to location requirements and sign prohibitions; and that no such sign shall be illuminated.

(A)            **Political Signs.** Political signs are permitted in the Village for a period beginning not more than **sixty (60) days** before a duly authorized primary or general election date. These signs shall be removed within **five (5) working days** following the authorized primary or general election date or within **five (5) working days** of the candidate's or issue's election or defeat, whichever comes first. Primary and general election dates shall be established by applicable federal, state or local law. Said signs must otherwise be in compliance with applicable state law.

(B)

**Real Estate Signs.**

- (1) **One (1)** real estate sign per single-family residential lot not exceeding **six (6) square feet** is authorized, but, shall be removed within **five (5) days** of the closing or consummation of an agreement for the sale, rental or lease of the property advertised.
- (2) Real estate signs shall be allowed on other than single-family lots not to exceed **thirty-two (32) square feet** and shall be limited to **two (2)** such signs per project, or **one (1)** such sign per entrance. Such signs shall be removed within **thirty (30) days** of the closing or consummation of sale, rental, or lease of the property as advertised.
- (3) Real estate developments, subdivisions and mobile home parks that are developed in compliance with state and local laws and regulations may post **one (1) sign** located on some portion of the property being offered for sale. This sign shall not be more than **one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet** in area. Each lot offered for sale within said development may display a similar sign as long as it meets the requirements listed in **Section 32-1-5(B)(1)**.

(C)

**Real Estate Directional Signs.**

- (1) Real estate directional signs are allowed in the Village and may not contain any commercial message or advertisement, but may contain the name, trademark or trade symbol of the development or property to which directions are being provided and/or the real estate company offering the property.
- (2) Real estate directional signs shall be erected and maintained only with the permission of the owner of the property upon which the sign is erected.
- (3) Real estate directional signs shall not exceed a maximum size of **four (4) square feet**.
- (4) Real estate directional signs shall not be illuminated.
- (5) Real estate directional signs shall be removed within **five (5) days** of the consummation of the sale or lease of the property to which directions are provided.

(D)

**Construction Signs.** For construction on or development of a lot, **one (1)** construction sign shall be allowed of not more than **sixteen (16) square feet** in area for each single-family residence, or **one (1) sign** per development not exceeding **one hundred (100) square feet** for each multi-family or nonresidential development, giving the names of the contractors, engineers, architects or financial institutions. Such signs shall be allowed only during the construction period.

(E) **Worship Directional Signs.**

- (1) Worship directional signs are allowed in the Village.
- (2) Worship directional signs shall be erected and maintained only with the permission of the owner of the property upon which the sign is erected.
- (3) Worship directional signs shall not exceed a maximum size of **six (6) square feet.**
- (4) Worship directional signs shall not be lighted.
- (5) There shall be no more than **four (4)** worship directional signs providing directions to any church or other place of worship.
- (6) Worship directional signs shall be erected on supports provided specifically for that purpose and no more than **one (1)** such support may be erected at any street corner.

(F) **Official Signs.** Signs placed by a governmental body, governmental agency or public authority, including but not limited to traffic signs, signals, or regulatory devices or warnings, official emblems, public notices, official instruments, signs of historical interest or other similar signs or devices are authorized in all zones and within all rights-of-way controlled by such governmental body, agency, or authority.

(G) **Weekend Directional Signs.**

- (1) Weekend directional signs shall be limited to garage sale signs and yard sale signs.
- (2) Such signs shall be allowed in the Village on weekends from Friday morning to Sunday evening.
- (3) Signs shall not exceed **six (6) square feet.**

(H) **Temporary Signs for Civic, Religious and School Organizations or Special Events.**

- (1) Temporary signs for civic, religious and school organizations or special events, either onsite or offsite, shall include, but are not limited to, special events notices, temporary meeting location notices, or signs promoting the activities of the organization. Said activities shall be nonprofit activities.
- (2) Any such sign shall be allowed in the Village for a period of **thirty (30) days.**
- (3) Signs shall not exceed **thirty-two (32) square feet** in area and shall be at least **five (5) feet** from the right-of-way.
- (4) No part of any sign shall be located in or on a public right-of-way.

(I) **Self-Expression Signs.**

- (1) Self-expression signs shall be limited to **one (1)** such sign per lot.
- (2) Self-expression signs shall not exceed **four (4) square feet** in area nor **three (3) feet** in height, and shall conform at all times with requirements of this Section as to location, maintenance, and all other pertinent regulations.

(3) Self-expression signs shall be authorized for a period of not more than **ninety (90) days** each calendar year on the same property.

(J) **Holiday or Seasonal Displays.** This Chapter does not apply to holiday or seasonal displays erected solely on private property.

**32-1-6** **VARIANCE.** Changes to the requirements of this Code as they apply to a particular parcel of land must be sought through an application for a variance in accordance with the provisions of this Code or other applicable Ordinances.

**(Ord. No. 2000-01; 01-11-00)**